

Cuckfield Rural District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1955

BY

WILLIAM B. STOTT,

L.R.C.P. & S. (EDIN.), D.P.H. (CAMB.)

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CHARLES CLARKE (HAYWARDS HEATH) LTD.

1956

INDEX

	PAGE
Ambulance Facilities	9
Births	9
Clinics and Treatment Centres	10
Combined Diphtheria and Whooping Cough Immunisation	3
Complaints	27
Deaths	7, 8, 9
Diphtheria Immunisation	3, 18
Drainage and Sewerage	24
Factories Act	25
Food Inspection	23
Housing	5, 24, 25
Hospital Accommodation for Infectious Disease	19
Ice-Cream	23
Infant Mortality	3
Infectious Disease	5, 12, 13
Infestations	25
Isolation Hospital	19
Laboratory Facilities	9
Meat Inspection	23
Milk Supply	22
Moveable Dwellings	25
Rateable Value	7
Rodent Control	27
Sanitary Inspections	22
Sanitary Supervision of the District	20
Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933	23
Slaughterhouses	23
Smallpox	9
Sonne Dysentery	6
Staff	7
Statistics	7
Tuberculosis	6, 14, 15, 16
Vaccination	18
Vital Statistics	17
Water Supply	20

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CUCKFIELD

REPORT

OF

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

To the Chairman and Members of the Cuckfield Rural District Council

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1955.

The Crude Death Rate is 11.88, and this figure, when adjusted gives a Corrected Death Rate of 8.55, which compares with 11.7 for England and Wales.

The Infant Mortality Rate is 21.94, as compared with 24.9 for the country as a whole and with 8.60 for 1954.

The Death Rate for tuberculosis is 0.08, as compared with 0.14 for England and Wales.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The County Council is responsible for the administration of this scheme, and the County Medical Officer of Health has delegated the duties in connection with local arrangements to your Medical Officer of Health. For the eighth consecutive year no case of diphtheria occurred in this district.

On page 18 will be found details of the immunisation position, which, summarised, is as follows:—

0-5 years—Percentage of children immunised ..	83
5-15 years—Percentage of children immunised ..	96
0-15 years—Percentage of children immunised ..	92

It is not possible to obtain a much higher percentage in the 0-5 years group, for immunisation is not commenced until the child is three months old, and the full course of combined whooping cough and diphtheria immunisation takes three months.

Great care is taken to ensure that the parents of every child born in the district or entering from another district are informed fully of the advantages of immunisation, first by letter and later, if necessary, by personal approach. The Health Visitors and District Nurses have been very helpful in that they have interviewed all parents who have not accepted on the first approach, and in certain cases Dr. H. L. Duke, Deputy M.O.H., himself visits hesitant parents in an endeavour to obtain their consent. The results achieved have been excellent, as shown by the figures above. A card is made out for every child in the district and full particulars are entered thereon. As an additional check, a book is kept in which is recorded the names of every child born in the district with details of immunisation, and it is thus possible to see at a glance the position from month to month.

The number of parents who refuse immunisation is very few—about 1 per cent.—but there are a few who, though not against it and who say they will have it done, do not bother to take their children to the doctor's surgery or to the clinic.

Once again through the good offices of the local press I wish to draw the attention of all those parents to the fact that it will be too late to have their child immunised after the diphtheria bacillus gains entry to a household or school, and I strongly recommend them to have their children immunised *now*.

For the past three and a half years the procedure in this district has been to write to parents when the child is three months old offering the combined immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough, pointing out the advantages of early immunisation against whooping cough and giving the parent the option of taking the child to its own doctor or to a special clinic at which Dr. Duke attends. The great majority of parents accept the combined immunisation, but if only immunisation against diphtheria is sought, this is carried out at a later date, usually about the eighth or ninth month. The material used for the combined immunisation is Parke Davis W.D.P., as it has the advantage of not containing alum which is reputed to increase the risk of post-inoculation poliomyelitis when that disease is prevalent in the district. Another advantage is that it is given subcutaneously, and not intramuscularly, and so is less likely to cause paralysis. Injections are given at monthly intervals, followed by a Schick test three months after the final injection, with a further injection if the test is positive.

The percentage of children who require a further injection is extremely small—5 per cent., but none the less I am firmly of the opinion that the Schick test is a valuable adjunct in our immunisation scheme. The parent is not interested in the fact that 95 per cent. of children are fully immunised following the three injections, what she wants to know is that *her* child is protected, and with the Schick test we are able to give her that assurance. For immunisation against diphtheria alone P.T.A.P. is employed subcutaneously, as this is also reputed to be less likely to cause paralysis.

In order to keep up the immunity against diphtheria a reinforcing injection of P.T.A.P. is given at the age of five years and at 10-11 years children are retested in order to see if they have retained their immunity at this age. Last year it was found that 87 per cent. were still immune, proving the efficacy of our procedure. Children whose immunity had waned were given a further reinforcing dose (T.A.F.) which we consider to be sufficient to keep them immunised for the remainder of their school life.

WEIR WOOD WATER SUPPLY

After the change over to this supply complaints began to be received from residents about the unpalatability of the water and about the presence of sediment in baths and washbasins. I carried out a personal investigation and took samples of water from the premises of the complainants, six in all. The analyst reported that all the samples showed the presence of vegetable matter in solution, but none showed any actual vegetable matter in suspension, showing that the water was adequately filtered before leaving the works. As iron was present in three of the samples and not in the others, and also not in a sample taken from the works, it seemed probable that the iron had been deposited in the mains from the previous supply, and that the new and softer water was acting on these deposits, giving rise to a discoloured water.

It was thought that the complaint of taste might be due to the development of vegetable growth in the raw water storage reservoir, and that the complaints about unpalatability might be caused by the change over from a hard, chalky type of water to a softer river or surface water.

There was, of course, no doubt that the water, being adequately chlorinated, was safe for drinking.

On receiving the report from the analyst, it was decided to flush out the mains, and when further samples were taken from the three properties the analyst reported that each was free from iron. No further complaints were received about this water supply.

HOUSING

As mentioned in last year's report, 277 houses were found to be unfit for habitation and not repairable at a reasonable cost. A return was submitted accordingly to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, stating that this Council would deal with these houses under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, during the next five years. Since the return was submitted to the Ministry 65 houses have been dealt with, either by demolition orders, by undertakings from the owners not to re-let or have been made fit by informal action.

The Improvement Grant scheme by which Councils make grants to owners to preserve their properties has worked extremely well in this district, and many houses have been preserved, which had it not been for the grant would have deteriorated and might have had to be demolished. The provision of baths and other amenities in these houses also have the effect of satisfying tenants who might otherwise apply for rehousing in council cottages.

Since this Act came into force grants amounting to £30,000 have been approved by the Council for a total of 126 dwellings. Mr. Jones, Senior Sanitary Inspector, is responsible for the administration of the scheme, and it is due, chiefly, to his efforts that the results have been so successful. Full particulars will be found in his report under the heading of Housing.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

One case of poliomyelitis occurred, a woman who had a moderate degree of paralysis in one leg and who made a very good recovery.

Thirteen cases of scarlet fever were notified, two being under five years of age and eleven in the school age group. As in recent years all were mild cases with a transient rash and slight sore throat.

Two cases of paratyphoid B were notified—one a young adult living in Hassocks. Although full investigations were carried out, the source of infection was not found. The organism was of the Taunton type, which was the type causing a small outbreak of paratyphoid B in Brighton and Hove area about the same time. Specimens were taken from other members of the family with negative results. The other case was a boy attending a residential school in the district. Full investigations were carried out of all class contacts, and boys who had had any illness or a rise of temperature were examined and specimens of blood and faeces taken, but with negative results. Specimens were also taken from the kitchen staff, but again with negative results. The type of organism was 3a Var. II, and I was informed by the Ministry of Health that there had been a number of cases in the Southern Region of paratyphoid B, due to this particular type, the probable source of infection being liquid eggs.

DYSENTERY

In 1954 an outbreak of Sonne dysentery (17 cases) occurred at a private residential nursery where young children under the age of five were being cared for. The source of the infection was two children from a night nursery in London. These children were carriers for several months despite all forms of medical treatment in an isolation hospital. In April, 1955, they were readmitted to the nursery, but when tested two months later as contacts of a case which had occurred they were found to be positive again, and had to be readmitted to hospital to prevent spread of infection in the home. The case that occurred was a sister of the two original cases. Although none of the other children in the home had symptoms of dysentery they were all tested as a precautionary measure and a total of 15 were found to be carriers.

The lesson to be learnt from this outbreak is that it is essential that fresh admissions to a residential home of this kind be free from infection before admission, as once the infection gets a hold it is extremely difficult to eradicate it even though every hygienic precaution is taken.

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS

There has been a marked fall in mortality from pulmonary tuberculosis since the end of the war, and this is well shown in the table on page 15. For the seven years 1934 to 1940 there were 57 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis, whereas in the last seven years deaths only numbered 16—practically a 75 per cent. fall in mortality. The factors considered to be responsible for this remarkable fall in mortality are as follows:—

1. Better knowledge of this disease by the public.
2. Better nutrition.
3. Better housing.
4. More use of X-ray examinations, including mass X-ray.
5. More thorough examination of close contacts including testing of children and their vaccination by B.C.G.
6. Better results in treatment through the use of new drugs and surgical measures.

The testing of schoolchildren in the last year at school and the vaccination of negative reactors with B.C.G. should help further to reduce the incidence of this disease.

My thanks are due to Mr. F. G. Jones, Senior Sanitary Inspector, for his help and co-operation in the work of the department, and for the particulars supplied for this Report, and to the other members of the staff, and in particular to Miss Everson, my Secretary.

I should like to take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the consideration, support and assistance I have received from the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

W. B. STOTT,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

<i>Medical Officer of Health</i>	..	WILLIAM B. STOTT, L.R.C.P. & S. (EDIN.), D.P.H. (CAMB.)
<i>(Also Medical Officer of Health to Cuckfield Urban and Burgess Hill Urban Districts)</i>		
<i>Deputy Medical Officer of Health</i>		H. L. DUKE, O.B.E., M.D., SC.D. (CAMB.), D.T.M. & HY.
<i>Senior Sanitary Inspector</i>	..	F. G. JONES, M.B.E., F.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A. <i>Certified Inspector of Meat and Other Foods</i>
<i>Deputy Senior Sanitary Inspector</i>		R. S. REILF, M.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A. <i>Certified Inspector of Meat and Other Foods</i>
<i>District Sanitary Inspector</i>	..	B. P. DARKING, M.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A. <i>Certified Inspector of Meat and Other Foods</i>
<i>Clerks to the M.O.H.</i>	..	Miss G. L. EVERSON Miss J. M. LEWRY
<i>Clerk to the S.S.I.</i>	..	Miss I. ROBBINS

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Summary of Statistics for the years:

		1953	1954	1955
Area of District in Acres	.. ..	68,011	68,011	68,011
Population estimated to middle of year	..	25,020	25,420	25,920
Rateable Value	.. .. ..	£202,409	£207,175	£213,016 (at 1.4.53) (at 1.4.54) (at 1.4.55)
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	.. ..	£843	£860	£860
Density of Population (persons per acre)	..	0.40	0.37	0.38
Number of Houses	.. .. ..	7,686	7,879	8,203
Birth Rate per 1,000 population	.. ..	12.72	13.73	12.30
Death Rate per 1,000 population	.. ..	12.13	12.12	11.88
Infant Mortality Rate	.. ..	26.32	8.60	21.94

CAUSES OF DEATH IN CUCKFIELD RURAL DISTRICT

					Males		Females
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	..	..	..	2	..	—
2.	Tuberculosis, other	..	..	..	—	..	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	..	..	..	—	..	—
4.	Diphtheria	..	..	..	—	..	—
5.	Whooping Cough	..	..	..	—	..	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	..	..	..	—	..	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	—	..	—
8.	Measles	..	..	..	—	..	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	..	..	..	—	..	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	..	..	..	6	..	3
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	..	..	..	8	..	1
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	..	..	..	—	..	12
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	..	..	..	—	..	5
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	..	..	..	10	..	17
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	..	..	..	1	..	—
16.	Diabetes	..	..	..	2	..	—
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	..	..	..	13	..	34
18.	Coronary disease, angina	..	..	..	30	..	7
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	..	..	..	—	..	3
20.	Other heart disease	..	..	..	30	..	34
21.	Other circulatory disease	..	..	..	5	..	11
22.	Influenza	..	..	..	—	..	3
23.	Pneumonia	..	..	..	8	..	7
24.	Bronchitis	..	..	..	7	..	5
25.	Other disease of the respiratory system	..	..	..	1	..	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	..	..	..	3	..	1
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	..	..	..	—	..	—
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	..	..	..	2	..	2
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	..	..	..	3	..	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth abortion	..	..	..	—	..	—
31.	Congenital malformations	..	..	..	1	..	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	..	..	..	10	..	11
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	..	..	..	5	..	—
34.	All other accidents	..	..	..	1	..	1
35.	Suicide	..	..	..	—	..	1
36.	Homicide and operations of war	..	..	..	—	..	—
Totals					148	..	160

BIRTHS AND DEATHS

Births and Birth Rate

The following table shows the Births registered for the year 1955:—

		<i>Male</i>		<i>Female</i>		<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	..	163	..	145	..	308
Illegitimate	..	4	..	7	..	11
		—		—		—
Totals	..	167	..	152	..	319
		—		—		—

This gives a rate of 12.30 per 1,000 population.

The corrected birth rate is 14.02.

		<i>Male</i>		<i>Female</i>		<i>Total</i>
Total Stillbirths	..	4	..	3	..	7
Legitimate	..	4	..	3	..	7
Illegitimate	..	—	..	—	..	—

Deaths and Death Rate

The following table shows the Deaths registered for the year 1955:—

	<i>Male</i>		<i>Female</i>		<i>Total</i>
	148	..	160	..	308

This gives a mortality rate of 11.88 per 1,000 population.

The corrected death rate is 8.55.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Laboratory Facilities

All milk and water samples, infectious disease and food poisoning specimens are sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Brighton. Medical practitioners send the specimens direct to the Laboratory, and they receive the report by telephone, a copy of such report being sent to this office.

My thanks are due to Dr. J. E. Jameson, Medical Director, for his informative reports and helpful advice on many occasions.

Ambulance Facilities

Cases of infectious disease are now removed by one of the two British Red Cross Society's ambulances stationed at Lavender's Garage, Sussex Road, Haywards Heath.

Hospital Accommodation for Infectious Diseases

Twenty-six beds are available at the Mid-Sussex Isolation Hospital for the treatment of cases of infectious disease, twelve of these beds are in a cubicle block and the other fourteen in a block consisting of two main wards and side wards.

A table on page 19 gives particulars of admissions during the year.

Smallpox

The South-East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board state that cases of smallpox occurring in this district should be sent to the River Hospital (Long Reach), Dartford, Kent.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

Infant Welfare Centres:

Albourne	..	Village Hall (<i>Weighing Centre only</i>)	3rd Thursday
Ardingly	..	Hapstead Hall	1st and 3rd Thursday Dr. on 3rd Thursday
Balcombe	..	Parish Room	1st and 3rd Wednesday Dr. on 3rd Wednesday
Bolney	..	Rawson Institute	4th Tuesday Dr. each session
Crawley Down	..	Village Hall	2nd and 4th Tuesday Dr. on 2nd Tuesday
Horsted Keynes	..	Congregational Church Hall	3rd Friday Dr. each session
Hurstpierpoint	..	Parish Hall	3rd Tuesday Dr. each session
Keymer	..	Village Hall	1st and 3rd Tuesday Dr. on 1st Tuesday
Poynings	..	Village Hall	Last Wednesday Dr. each session
Slaugham	..	Village Hall, Handcross	3rd Monday Dr. each session
West Hoathly	..	Village Hall	1st and 3rd Tuesday Dr. on 1st Tuesday
Cuckfield	..	Congregational Church Hall	2nd and 4th Friday Dr. on 2nd Friday
Lindfield	..	The Tiger	1st Monday Dr. each session

Clinics:

Chest	..	Haywards Heath Hospital, Haywards Heath	Every Thursday
		Cuckfield Hospital, Cuckfield	Thursdays 2 p.m. Diagnostic
Orthopaedic	..	E.S.C.C. Clinic, Mill Road, Burgess Hill	Tuesday 9 a.m.-12.30 p.m. Friday 9 a.m. Dr. usually attends 3rd and/ or 4th Wednesday at 10.30 a.m. (by appointment)

Speech Therapy	..	E.S.C.C. Clinic, Oaklands, Haywards Heath E.S.C.C. Clinic, Mill Road, Burgess Hill	Wednesday 9 a.m. Friday 9 a.m. (by appointment) Wednesday 2 p.m. (by appointment)
Child Guidance	..	East Grinstead: Moat Road	Every Friday 10 a.m. (by appointment)
		Lewes: Castlegate House	Every Wednesday 10 a.m. (by appointment)
		Hove: 33 Clarendon Villas	Tuesday 10 a.m. Thursday 10 a.m. (by appointment)
Eye Refractions	..	(School Children) Cuckfield Hospital Haywards Heath Hospital	By appointment By appointment
Dental	..	E.S.C.C. Clinic, Oaklands, Haywards Heath	By appointment
School Clinic	..	E.S.C.C. Clinic, Oaklands, Haywards Heath	Dr. Waugh (by appointment)
*Family Planning	..	E.S.C.C. Clinic, Oaklands, Haywards Heath	2nd and 4th Wednesday 2 p.m. Dr. each session (by appointment)
*Sub-Fertility	..	E.S.C.C. Clinic, Oaklands, Haywards Heath	1st Wednesday 2.15 p.m. Dr. each session (by appointment)
Venereal Diseases	..	Facilities available at Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton	
	Men ..	..	Monday .. 4.30 p.m. Wednesday .. 9.30 a.m. Thursday .. 1.30 p.m.
	Women and Children		Tuesday .. 1.30 p.m. Thursday .. 10.0 a.m. Saturday .. 9.30 a.m.
			New cases must attend at least one hour before the Clinic closes

* These Clinics are provided by the Family Planning Association

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN AGE GROUPS

Disease	Total Cases notified	Under 1 year	2-3	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65 and over	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	..	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
Scarlet Fever	..	13	-	-	2	-	10	1	-	-	5	-
Paratyphoid B	..	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	..	5	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	-	-	-
Dysentery	..	15	2	7	2	4	-	-	-	-	3	-
Food Poisoning	..	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
Erysipelas	..	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Pneumonia	..	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Measles	..	484	11	18	46	42	51	274	32	2	7	1
Whooping Cough	..	40	2	4	2	4	3	13	9	-	3	-
Totals	..	566	15	29	50	52	54	299	42	7	15	1
										2	12	-

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN PARISHES

Parish	Whooping Cough										Tuberculosis													
	Measles					Pneumonia					Dysentery					Food Poisoning					Erysipelas			
Albourne	
Ardingly	
Balcombe	
Bolney	
Cuckfield	
Rural	
Fulking	
Horsted Keynes	
Hurstpierpoint	
Keymer	
Lindfield	
Rural	
Poynings	
Slaugham	
Twineham	
West Hoathly	
Worth	
	Totals	..	..	..	..	1	13	2	5	15	3	1	2	2	484	40	566						

TUBERCULOSIS—NEW CASES AND MORTALITY, 1955

Age Groups	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
0 - 1..	—	—	—	—
1 - 5..	1	—	—	—
5 - 15	—	—	—	—
15 - 25	1	3	—	—
25 - 35	1	1	—	—
35 - 45	1	—	—	—
45 - 55	3	—	—	—
55 - 65	1	—	—	—
65 and over	—	1	—	—
Totals	7	6	—	3	2	—

COMPARATIVE TUBERCULOSIS STATISTICS, 1934-1955

Year	New Cases						Deaths						Number on Register at end of Year						
	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	
1934	7	3	10	1	3	4	8	3	11	1	1	2	28	31	59	26	18	44	
1935	6	3	9	1	1	2	5	4	9	2	1	3	30	32	62	27	16	43	
1936	5	5	10	—	—	4	6	4	10	—	—	—	32	31	63	26	20	46	
1937	10	22	32	6	4	10	3	6	9	1	1	1	24	34	58	20	16	36	
1938	11	11	22	6	4	10	4	1	5	1	1	2	21	33	54	18	12	30	
1939	4	4	8	1	5	6	2	1	3	—	—	—	17	33	50	15	15	30	
1940	9	14	23	3	6	9	4	6	10	1	1	1	22	36	58	15	19	34	
1941	19	9	28	6	2	8	3	6	9	1	1	4	33	39	72	19	19	38	
1942	10	7	17	2	6	8	3	2	5	3	3	6	42	45	87	21	24	45	
1943	15	8	23	2	5	7	10	4	14	3	1	4	46	44	90	21	25	46	
1944	9	5	14	2	4	6	7	2	9	—	—	—	50	48	98	23	29	52	
1945	16	15	31	3	3	6	6	6	5	—	—	1	1	55	47	102	22	27	49
1946	9	3	12	2	8	10	3	1	4	2	1	1	3	58	47	105	23	35	58
1947	13	11	24	3	2	5	4	4	8	1	1	1	1	62	51	113	25	35	60
1948	12	9	21	2	2	4	7	5	12	—	—	1	1	59	51	110	27	34	61
1949	23	8	31	5	3	8	6	6	—	—	—	1	1	73	56	129	30	36	66
1950	13	11	24	3	3	6	1	—	1	1	1	1	1	81	58	139	30	33	63
1951	17	12	29	1	3	4	2	1	3	1	1	1	1	85	66	151	27	36	63
1952	8	15	23	2	6	8	1	2	3	—	—	1	1	87	78	165	29	40	69
1953	9	2	11	9	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	78	69	147	25	37	62
1954	4	1	5	1	—	3	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	70	58	128	14	18	32
1955	7	6	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	71	58	129	13	20	33

CUCKFIELD RURAL DISTRICT

Death Rate for Tuberculosis for past twelve years

Year	Tuberculosis Death Rate
1944	0.34
1945	0.47
1946	0.26
1947	0.33
1948	0.46
1949	0.24
1950	0.07
1951	0.14
1952	0.14
1953	0.04
1954	Nil
1955	0.08

TABLE SHOWING VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEARS 1941-1955

Year	Esti- mated Popula- tion	Number of Births						Number of Deaths						Infants' Deaths			Natural Increase of Births over Deaths		
		Legitimate			Illegitimate			Birth Rate	M	F	Total	Death Rate	M	F	Total	Infant Death Rate	M	F	Total
		M	F	Total	M	F	Total												
1941	29,450	155	153	308	14	11	25	11.30	178	205	383	13.00	9	6	15	41.32	-50		
1942	27,510	213	193	406	14	18	32	15.92	158	167	325	11.81	7	2	9	20.55	113		
1943	26,470	203	213	416	27	20	47	17.49	157	156	313	11.82	7	4	11	23.76	150		
1944	26,290	240	223	463	20	19	39	19.09	169	184	353	13.43	10	6	16	31.87	149		
1945	25,600	181	177	358	19	22	41	15.59	155	177	332	12.97	8	5	13	32.58	67		
1946	26,610	188	218	406	20	19	39	16.72	168	167	335	12.59	11	6	17	38.20	110		
1947	27,180	259	225	484	12	11	23	18.65	173	202	375	13.80	3	8	11	21.70	132		
1948	28,400	226	196	422	12	14	26	14.86	187	178	365	12.85	13	4	17	40.28	83		
1949	28,850	207	198	405	10	9	19	14.70	172	199	371	12.86	4	6	10	23.58	53		
1950	29,390	202	189	391	13	9	22	14.05	193	183	376	12.79	10	3	13	31.47	37		
1951	29,280	165	147	312	5	7	12	11.07	171	196	367	12.53	6	6	12	37.04	-43		
1952	29,350	190	195	385	5	12	17	13.70	171	176	347	11.82	6	3	9	22.39	55		
1953	25,020	178	150	328	10	4	14	12.72	136	190	326	12.13	4	5	9	26.32	16		
1954	25,420	182	151	333	7	9	16	13.73	150	158	308	12.12	-	3	3	8.60	41		
1955	25,920	163	145	308	4	7	11	12.30	148	160	308	11.88	4	3	7	21.94	11		

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

0-15 Years of age

Number on roll	..	..	..	..	..	5,300
Number immunised	..	..	..	..	..	4,875
Percentage	..	..	..	..	..	92

0-5 Years of Age

Number on roll	..	..	..	..	..	1,635
Number immunised	..	..	..	..	..	1,267
Percentage	..	..	..	..	..	88

The table below shows the immunisation figures for every school in the district:—

		On Roll	Immunised	Percentage
SCHOOLS: PRIMARY AND COUNTY SECONDARY—				
Horsted Keynes	..	64	64	100
Scaynes Hill	..	44	44	100
Slaugham-Warninglid	..	66	66	100
Staplefield	..	36	36	100
Twineham	..	27	27	100
Crawley Down	..	129	127	98
Hurstpierpoint Primary	..	268	262	98
Hurstpierpoint Secondary	..	159	156	98
Turners Hill	..	67	66	98
West Hoathly	..	122	118	97
Hassocks	..	257	247	96
Pyecombe	..	24	23	96
Albourne	..	39	37	95
Ardingly	..	93	88	95
Balcombe	..	140	133	95
Copthorne	..	113	107	95
Sayers Common	..	43	41	95
Handcross	..	141	133	94
Poynings	..	52	49	94
Bolney	..	59	56	95
NOT YET AT SCHOOL, or at school outside our area	..	1,943	1,880	97
SCHOOLS, Private	..	465	455	98
		1,257	1,191	95
		3,665	3,526	96

During the year:—

319 children were immunised

784 children were Schick tested

397 children had a reinforcing injection

VACCINATION

Two hundred and ten children were vaccinated under the age of one year—
a percentage of 57.

THE MID-SUSSEX ISOLATION HOSPITAL

I am indebted to the Matron, Miss J. M. Reid, for the following particulars of cases admitted during the year:—

Disease	Cuckfield Rural District		Cuckfield Urban District		Burgess Hill Urban District		East Grinstead Urban District		Uckfield Rural District		Other Districts		Total
	Adm.	Disch.	Adm.	Disch.	Adm.	Disch.	Adm.	Disch.	Adm.	Disch.	Adm.	Disch.	
Poliomyelitis (non-paralytic) ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Poliomyelitis (paralytic) ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Observation Poliomyelitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Scarlet Fever ..	5	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
Nephritis following Streptococcal infection ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Glandular Fever ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Paratyphoid B ..	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Observation Paratyphoid ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Dysentery ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Observation Dysentery ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Dysentery "Carrier" ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Gastro-enteritis ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Vincents Angina ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Bronchitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Shingles ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Observation Meningitis ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Staphylococcal Septicaemia following burns ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Virus infection ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Ulcerated throat and mouth ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Vaginitis and mouth infection ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Pelvic Abscess ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Tonsillitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2
Measles ..	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	7	10
Rubella ..	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Rubella with Vincents Angina ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Chickenpox ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Mumps ..	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	10
Virus Pneumonia ..	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Tuberculosis ..	—	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	23	—	27	
Totals ..	17	13	8	6	6	6	51	101					

The Cubicle Block allowed twenty-nine different diseases, observation cases or diseases with complications to be dealt with.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Mr. F. G. Jones, Senior Sanitary Inspector, has furnished the following report on the sanitary supervision of the District:—

WATER SUPPLY

(a) Public Supplies

The District is extremely well supplied with piped water from the public mains and private sources. Out of a total of 8,203 houses, an increase of 324 over 1954, 7,948 have a piped supply into the houses; this gives a percentage of 97. A further 15 houses have a main supply from standpipes.

The following table shows the position with regard to the number of houses with a piped supply, in each parish:—

Parish	No. of Houses	Houses with piped Supply		Standpipes	
		No.	Population	No.	Population
Albourne ..	164	158	490	—	—
Ardingly ..	376	372	1,153	—	—
Balcombe ..	448	444	1,376	—	—
Bolney	329	317	983	—	—
Clayton ..	323	321	995	—	—
Cuckfield Rural	556	554	1,717	—	—
Fulking ..	101	71	220	3	10
Horsted Keynes	359	315	977	—	—
Hurstpierpoint	1,330	1,282	3,974	—	—
Keymer ..	1,135	1,130	3,503	—	—
Lindfield Rural	407	403	1,249	—	—
Newtimber ..	45	45	140	—	—
Poynings ..	104	95	295	8	26
Pyecombe ..	88	81	251	4	13
Slaugham ..	564	559	1,733	—	—
Twineham ..	90	86	267	—	—
West Hoathly ..	503	488	1,513	—	—
Worth	1,281	1,227	3,804	—	—
Totals ..	8,203	7,948	24,640	15	49

During the year samples were taken from each of the public supplies for chemical and bacteriological analysis. All were satisfactory.

Supply	Bacteriological	Chemical
Pyecombe	2	—
Mid-Sussex Joint Water Board's Supply	—	—
Newhaven, Seaford & Ouse Valley Water Company's Supply	7	1
Worth and West Hoathly Supply	1	1
Wier Wood Supply	3	4
Worth Park Supply	1	—

(i) All public supplies are sampled monthly for bacteriological examination and all were reported on as being satisfactory.

(ii) The Boards or Companies responsible for the pipe supply carried out monthly bacteriological examination on the raw water and all were reported as being satisfactory. All waters are chlorinated after filtration. Samples of all public supplies were taken for chemical analysis and all were satisfactory.

(iii) None of the supplies is liable to plumbo-solvent action.

(iv) There was no evidence that any of the supplies were contaminated.

The table on page 20 gives separate information in respect of each parish in the District.

(b) Private Supplies

During the year 27 samples were taken for bacteriological examination and 4 for chemical analysis. The samples taken refer to supplies serving 102 dwellings, a few of which were sampled on several occasions.

In all, 4 dwellings and 2 dairy farms were found to have unfit or doubtful supplies, in addition to the 21 outstanding from the previous year.

Arising from notices served on the owners, the following works were completed.

No. of dwellings connected to the main	6
No. of dwellings works completed and fit upon analysis	4
No. of dwellings with unfit supplies outstanding at end of year	15

The following are the estate supplies sampled:—

Estate	No. of Dwellings	Fit	Unfit
Newtimber	21	21	—
Hole's Supply, Albourne	24	24	—
Poynings Grange	9	9	—
Fen Place Camping Site, Turners Hill ..	20	20	—

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA

Total No. of Inspections under Public Health and Housing Acts	2,075
Infectious Disease	No. of inspections 78
Factories	No. of inspections 73
Water Supplies	No. of inspections 92
Rats and Mice	No. of visits .. 1,889
Drainage (Horsted Keynes, Handcross, Pease Pottage)	No. of visits .. 287
Drainage (General)	No. of visits .. 422
Moveable Dwellings	No. of inspections 52
Shops Act	No. of inspections 9
Flies and Vermin	No. of visits .. 11
Inns	No. of inspections 29
Swimming Pools	No. of visits .. 8
Milk Supply	No. of visits .. 124
No. of visits to Butchers' Shops and Slaughterhouses	272
.. Food Shops	23
.. Catering Establishments	45
.. Ice-cream Premises	10
.. Bakehouses	22
Total	5,521

MILK SUPPLY

Twenty-seven purveyors retail milk in the area (including outside retail purveyors).

All the Schools are now supplied with Pasteurised milk.

There is a tendency for the retailers to purchase milk in bottles and thus obviate the necessity of bottle washing on their premises.

Eight samples of bottles (each a batch of three) were taken from retail purveyors during the year to check whether or not, in the case of unsatisfactory milk samples, the bottles were at fault. If it was proved to be the milk, reports were forwarded to the Milk Production Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

The samples of bottles were reported on as follows:—

No. of satisfactory samples	7
No. of unsatisfactory samples	1

During the year the following milk sampling was carried out:—

(a) Ungraded Milks

Two samples were taken for bacteriological examination and found to be satisfactory.

(b) Graded Milks

(i) Tuberculin Tested Milk

No. of samples taken	80
No. of samples found to be unsatisfactory	9

(ii) Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised Milk

No. of samples taken	54
No. of samples found to be unsatisfactory	Nil

(iii) Pasteurised Milk

No. of samples taken	47
No. of samples found to be unsatisfactory	Nil

(iv) Sterilised Milk

No. of samples taken	2
No. of samples found to be unsatisfactory	Nil

Schools Milk

The supplies to schools were sampled at the retailers and in all cases were satisfactory.

Biological Sampling

All milk retailed in the district (with the exception of heat-treated milk) was examined for the presence of tuberculosis. In all, 36 samples were taken, all of which were satisfactory.

Water Supplies to Dairy Farms

The supplies to nine dairy farms were sampled, resulting in two being found unsatisfactory. At the end of the year works were in progress to remedy the condition. During the year two dairy farms were connected to the public mains.

Milk (Special Designation) Orders

Licences granted by the Cuckfield Rural District Council:—

Retailers

Tuberculin Tested	16
" (Supplementary)	8
Pasteurised	13
" (Supplementary)	8
Sterilised	3
" (Supplementary)	4

ICE-CREAM

There are no manufacturers of Ice-cream in the area. Of the 100 vendors the majority retail wrapped ice-cream and store their products in conservators.

During the year four samples were taken and found to be satisfactory.

INSPECTION OF FOOD

Four Slaughterhouses are licensed, and all animals slaughtered were inspected. As a result of the inspections the following meat was condemned:—

Tuberculosis	91lb.
Other diseases	366lb.
Total	457lb.

The classification of animals slaughtered is as follows:—

Steers	80
Heifers	98
Calves	97
Sheep	210
Pigs	305

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933

No. of licences to Slaughter Animals renewed .. Nil

Food Inspection

During the year the following food was condemned as unfit for human consumption:—

Canned Fruit 10lb.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Works of re-drainage and connection to the sewers was continued at Horsted Keynes and Handcross. The following is a summary of the position at the end of the year:—

Horsted Keynes

No. of properties capable of being connected to the sewer ..	215
,, dwellings connected to the sewer	169
,, other properties connected to the sewer	4
,, dwellings completely redrained	72
,, dwellings—drainage modified	97
,, pail or chemical closets converted to water closets	58
,, closets provided with flushing	6

Handcross

No. of properties capable of being connected to the sewer ..	235
,, dwellings connected to the sewer	162
,, other properties connected to the sewer	3
,, dwellings completely redrained	75
,, dwellings—drainage modified	87
,, pail or chemical closets converted to water closets	8

HOUSING SURVEY

During the year 18 dwellings which were originally in category "5" of the Housing Survey (unfit for human habitation and cannot be made fit at a reasonable cost) were transferred to a higher category on completion of works, as follows:—

Original Category	No. of Dwellings	New Category		
		3	2	1
5	18	—	5	13
3	24	—	5	19
2	12	—	—	12

Action was taken during the year under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, as follows:—

No. of houses—Demolition Orders	7
,, —Undertakings accepted	25
,, —Demolished in anticipation of formal action	2
,, —works in hand to render fit (informal)	20

Drainage and Closet Accommodation

No. of properties connected to the sewer	124
,, redrained or improved	180
,, septic tank and filter installed	36
,, disposal plants improved	6
,, cesspools constructed	8
,, drainage systems unblocked	7
,, conversions from earth or chemical closets to water closets	25
,, new closet structures built or converted	28

HOUSING ACT, 1949-1954

Improvement Grants

This has been encouraged by the Council and its value in the field of housing work cannot be overstressed. In particular, this applies to the provision of bathrooms, internal water closets and hot water systems. Also, from the public health aspect is the fact that on completion of the works the property must be in a good state of repair and maintained in that condition.

In all, since the commencement of the Act, grants amounting to £31,977 have been approved for 126 dwellings, an average of £250 per dwelling. In addition, the cost to owners amounted to £48,162.

It is interesting to note that the majority of the grants approved apply to rented properties, the position being as follows:—

No. of properties—Owner-occupied	36
“ —Agricultural tenancies	61
“ —Non-agricultural tenancies	29

In all, 66 per cent. were tenanted dwellings.

The position during the year under review was as follows:—

No. of applications approved	95
Amount of grants approved	£24,348

In addition, the cost to owners amounted to £37,343.

No. of properties—Owner-occupied	28
“ —Agricultural tenancies	44
“ —Non-agricultural tenancies	23

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

In connection with the above, 52 visits were made, and with very few exceptions all dwellings are of the trailer type, in a sound structural condition.

During the year 15 site licences were renewed.

INFESTATION

In all work carried out a preparation containing D.D.T. was used with satisfactory results in dwelling-houses. A total of 11 visits were made, as a result of which the following works were carried out:—

No. of houses treated for vermin	6
“ treated for fly infestation	5

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

In all, 78 visits were made and 21 rooms were disinfected.

BATHING POOLS

There is one pool open to the general public in the area and four sited at schools; in addition, bathing takes place in two large ponds and one river.

Six samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination, all of which were satisfactory.

FACTORIES

During the year 73 visits were made and no statutory action was found to be necessary.

FACTORIES

1. INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which section 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	30	27	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) to which section 7 applies—(a) Subject to the Local Authorities (Transfer of Enforcement Order, 1938) ..	80	46	2	—
(b) others	—	—	—	—
(iii) Other premises under the Act (excluding out-workers' premises) ..	—	—	—	—
Totals ..	110	73	2	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ..	2	2	—	2	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Defective drainage of floors (S.6) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary convenience (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	1	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	1	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences (not including offences relating to homework)	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ..	3	3	—	3	—

RODENT CONTROL

The cost of " Warfarin " is higher than the other types, but the advantage of reducing the number of visits outweighs this when it is realised that a high proportion of time is spent in travelling. No economies in time have been found possible on refuse tip treatments.

In accordance with a resolution of the Council, private dwellings are treated free of charge, whilst business premises are treated at a charge to cover treatment. The cost of treating Council properties is kept separate.

During the year accounts sent in respect of business premises amounted to £44 17s. 1d., whilst the approximate cost of treating the Council's property was £151 10s. 0d.

The following summarises work carried out during the year:—

Private Dwellings

No. of dwelling-houses surveyed or visited	401
" where treatment was carried out	146
Total number of visits	1,137

Council Properties

No. of treatments carried out	57
Total number of visits	321

Premises visited comprise the following and routine treatments are carried out quarterly or as required:—

Sewage Works at Copthorne, Balcombe, Hurstpierpoint, Bolney, Poynings, West Hoathly, Ardingly (Main), Ardingly (Church Plant), Horsted Keynes, Pease Pottage and Handcross.

Refuse Tips at Rowfant, Albourne, Handcross.

Depots at Hurstpierpoint and Grange Road.

Business Premises

No. of food shops surveyed or visited	41
" food shops where treatment was carried out	3
" catering establishments visited	1
" other business premises (hotels, schools, etc.) surveyed or visited	49
" other business premises where treatment was carried out	15
" farms surveyed	181
" farms where treatment was carried out	5
Total number of visits	431

DETAILS OF COMPLAINTS RECEIVED

Overflowing cesspools	3
Drainage	5
Housing defects	12
Pollution of ditches	2
Refuse collection	1
Rats and Mice	135
Unsatisfactory living conditions	2
Fly infestation	6
Sanitary accommodation	1
Miscellaneous	11
Total	178

